

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1-28 are amended for editorial purposes only. The amendments to claims 1-28 have not been made to overcome the prior art and should not be construed as limiting. Changes made to the claims by the current amendment are shown in the attached "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."

Claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1-3 have been amended and are now in proper form for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Jelic, U.S. Patent No. 5,664,613. Applicant traverses this rejection to the extent it is maintained.

The Jelic reference discloses a window covering that includes a back sheet and a series of spaced apart, generally parallel strips attached at one edge of the back sheet and attached at an opposite edge to an adjacent set of strips. The parallel strips 12 form a cellular structure between the back sheet 2 and the set of strips 10 attached to the back sheet via the parallel strips 12.

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Although the strips 12 have properties of light impedance and the set of strips 10 have the property of admitting light, these features do not produce a window decoration in the form of a pleated blind, as is required by claim 2. The pleated blind of claim 2 requires that the first face that transmits substantially no incident light is located above the second face that merely subdues the incident light so that a person can still look through the second face. As discussed above, Jelic discloses a different orientation of the first face relative to the second face. Therefore, claim 1 is allowable over the Jelic reference. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Jacobs et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,467,266. Applicant traverses this rejection to the extent it is maintained.

Handwritten: JACOBS HAS HYPER
Jacobs discloses a motor-operated panel system that includes a panel assembly consisting of an elongated flexible web formed of a plurality of different panels connected end-to-end that control the transmission of light, heat or air through a window. The panels, as indicated at Figure 4, may have various light transmission properties. However, light transmission is not directly equivalent to image transmissivity. That is, the ability for light to pass through a given material is different from the ability for a person to see an image through the material.

Claim 3 of the present invention requires that a person present at his workplace in an inner space provided with the window decoration can still look outside the window through the second face of the window decoration. This image transmissivity (being able to see through the window decoration) is not disclosed by Jacobs, as Jacobs is directed only to light transmission properties. Therefore, claim 3 is allowable over the Jacobs reference. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claims 2 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe, U.S. Patent No. 5,791,390. Applicant traverses this rejection to the extent it is maintained.

✓ Watanabe refers to a shade composed of two portions joined together with one portion being opaque and the other portion being nearly transparent. A material being "nearly transparent" is well known as being different from "transparent". Claim 2 requires a window decoration with a second face extending in a horizontal direction that subdues incident light in such a manner that a person present at his workplace in an inner space provided with the window decoration can still look outside through the second face. Being able to "still look outside through the second face" indicates that there is image transmissivity through the window decoration. Image transmissivity is different from being "nearly transparent," because "nearly transparent" is not inclusive of image transmissivity (an image can be seen through the window decoration). Therefore, Applicant submits that Watanabe does not disclose or suggest every limitation of claim 2 and claim 17 which depends from it. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe and further in view of Jelic. As discussed above, claims 1 and 17 are allowable over Watanabe. Jelic fails to remedy the deficiencies of Watanabe. Therefore, claim 18 is allowable for at least the reason it is dependent upon an allowable base claim. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4-9 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guermontez, U.S. Patent No. 4,799,524, in view of Watanabe. Applicant traverses this rejection to the extent it is maintained.

Guermontprez does not disclose that the lower shade subdues incident light in such a manner that a person at his workplace in an inner space provided with a window decoration can still look outside through the lower shade or "second face", as is required by claim 1. As discussed above, Watanabe fails to disclose a lower shade with image transmissivity (a person being able to look through the material) as is required by claim 1. Therefore, the combination of Guermontprez and Watanabe fails to disclose or suggest every limitation of claim 1 and claims 4-9 and 19 which depend from it. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claims 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guermontprez in view of Watanabe as applied above, and further in view of Levert, U.S. Patent No. 6,123,137. Applicant traverses this rejection to the extent it is maintained.

Claims 10 and 11 are dependent from claim 9. As discussed above, claim 9 and claim 1 from which it depends are allowable over the Guermontprez and Watanabe references. Levert fails to remedy the deficiencies of Guermontprez and Watanabe as applied to claim 1 and claim 9. Therefore, claims 10 and 11 are allowable for at least the reason they are dependent upon an allowable base claim. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jacobs in view of Geraud, U.S. Patent No. 5,538,065. Applicant traverses this rejection to the extent it is maintained.

As discussed above, Jacobs fails to disclose every limitation of claim 3, from which claim 15 depends. Geraud fails to remedy the deficiencies of Jacobs as to claim 3. Therefore, claim 15 is allowable for at least the reason it is dependent upon an allowable base claim. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jacobs in view of Geraud as applied above, and further in view of Wildt, U.S. Patent No. 5,392,835. Applicant traverses this rejection to the extent it is maintained. As discussed above, Jacobs and Geraud fail to disclose every limitation of claim 15 and claim 1, from which claim 16 depends. Wildt fails to remedy the deficiencies of Jacobs and Geraud. Therefore, claim 16 is allowable for at least the reason it is dependent upon an allowable base claim. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

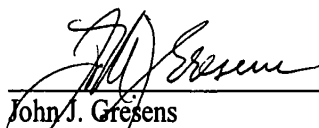
In view of the above, reconsideration of the application is requested in the form of a Notice of Allowance. If a phone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues related to this application, please contact Applicant's Representative signed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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7/16/02



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims

Claims 1-28 have been amended as follows:

1. (Once Amended) A window decoration [/sun protection] in the form of a horizontal or vertical slatted blind that is capable of providing sun protection, [characterized in that] the window decoration, when brought into a condition ready for use, comprises a first face extending in a horizontal direction over [at least] substantially the full width of the window decoration and [that the window decoration, when brought into the condition ready for use, comprises] a second face extending in the horizontal direction of the window decoration, the first face transmitting [at least] substantially no incident light, the second face subduing the incident light in such a manner that a person present at his workplace in an inner space provided with the window decoration can still look outside through the second face, the first face being located above the second face.

2. (Once Amended) A window decoration [/sun protection] in the form of a pleated blind that is capable of providing sun protection, comprising an upper box and a lower beam, while between the upper box and the lower beam, in the condition ready for use, there is exclusively located a sheet-shaped material pleated in one piece, [characterized in that] and the window decoration, when brought into the condition ready for use, comprises a first face extending in a horizontal direction over [at least] substantially the full width of the window decoration and [that the window decoration, when brought into the condition ready for use, comprises] a second face extending in the horizontal direction of the window decoration, the first face transmitting [at least] substantially no incident light, the second face subduing the incident light in such a manner that a person present at his workplace in an inner space provided with the window decoration can still look outside through the second face, the first face being located above the second face, the first and the second face being located between the upper box and the lower beam.

3. (Once Amended) A window decoration [/sun protection] in the form of a single-layer roller blind which can be wound up at its upper side that is capable of providing sun protection,

[characterized in that] the window decoration, when brought into a condition ready for use, comprises a first face extending in a horizontal direction over [at least] substantially the full width of the window decoration and [that the window decoration, when brought into the condition ready for use, comprises] a second face extending in the horizontal direction of the window decoration, the first face transmitting [at least] substantially no incident light, the second face subduing the incident light in such a manner that a person present at his workplace in an inner space provided with the window decoration can still look outside through the second face, the first face being located above the second face.

4. (Twice Amended) A window decoration according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the second face extends over at least substantially the full width of the window decoration.

5. (Twice Amended) A window decoration according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the first and the second face adjoin each other.

6. (Twice Amended) A window decoration according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the second face extends down to a lower side of the window decoration.

7. (Twice Amended) A window decoration according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the first face extends up to an upper side of the window decoration.

8. (Twice Amended) A window decoration according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the first and the second face each have a rectangular shape.

9. (Twice Amended) A window decoration according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the first face is formed by horizontal slats of a first type of non-light-transmitting design, and that the second face is formed by horizontal slats of a second type of light-transmitting design.

10. (Once Amended) A window decoration according to claim 9, [characterized in that] wherein the slats of the second type are perforated.
11. (Twice Amended) A window decoration according to claim 9, [characterized in that] wherein the slats of the first type are of non-perforated design.
12. (Twice Amended) A window decoration according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the first and the second face are formed by vertical slats, while to each of said slats it applies that it transmits at least substantially no light for first portion of the relevant slat, said first portion forming part of the first face and partially transmits light for a second portion of the relevant slat, said portion forming part of the second face.
13. (Once Amended) A window decoration according to claim 12, [characterized in that] wherein said second portion is of perforated design.
14. (Twice Amended) A window decoration according to claim 12, [characterized in that] wherein the first portion is of non-perforated design.
15. (Twice Amended) A window decoration according to claim 3, [characterized in that] wherein the first face is formed by a first cloth of the roller blind, said first cloth transmitting at least substantially no light, and that the second face is formed by a second cloth of the roller blind, said second cloth transmitting incident light partially.
16. (Once Amended) A window decoration according to claim 15, [characterized in that] wherein the cloth of the second face consists of gauze.
17. (Twice Amended) A window decoration according to claim 2, [characterized in that] wherein the first face is formed by pleated, sheet-shaped material such as cloth having a coating which transmits at least substantially no light, and that the second face is formed by pleated, sheet-shaped material such as cloth having a coating which transmits light at least partially.

18. (Once Amended) A window decoration according to claim 17, [characterized in that] wherein the sheet-shaped material of the second face is perforated.

19. (Twice Amended) A window decoration according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the first face is higher than the second face.

20. (Once Amended) A window decoration, wherein the window decoration, when brought into a condition ready for use, comprises a first face extending in a horizontal direction over [at least] substantially the full width of the window decoration and a second face extending in the horizontal direction of the window decoration, the first face being located above the second face, and the second face being translucent, [characterized in that,] the first and the second face [are] being formed by vertical slats, while to each of said slats it applies that it transmits substantially no light for a first portion of the relevant slat, said first portion forming part of the first face, and partially transmits light for a second portion of the relevant slat, said second portion forming part of the second face wherein the first face transmits substantially no incident light and the second face subdues the incident light in such a manner that a person present at his workplace in an inner space provided with the window decoration can still look outside through the second face.

21. (Once Amended) A window decoration according to claim 20, [characterized in that] wherein said second portion is of perforated design.

22. (Twice Amended) A window decoration according to claim 20, [characterized in that] wherein said second portion is of perforated design.

23. (Twice Amended) A window decoration according to claim 20, [characterized in that] wherein the second face extends over at least substantially the full width of the window decoration.

24. (Twice Amended) A window decoration according to claim 20, [characterized in that] wherein the first and second face adjoin each other.

25. (Twice Amended) A window decoration according to claim 20, [characterized in that] wherein the second face extends down to a lower side of the window decoration.

26. (Twice Amended) A window decoration according to claim 20, [characterized in that] wherein the first face extends up to an upper side of the window decoration.

27. (Twice Amended) A window decoration according to claim 20, [characterized in that] wherein the first and second face each have a rectangular shape.

28. (Twice Amended) A window decoration according to claim 20, [characterized in that] wherein the first face is higher than the second face.